

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 CCO-00

AID-20 PC-15 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 /129 W
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O R 282118 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4709

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2829

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, MILI

SUBJ: COUP REPORTEDLY FRUSTRATED

DEPT PASS DOD, DIA, USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: SANTIAGO 2813

1. SANTIAGO EMERGENCY ZONE COMMANDER GENERAL MARIO SEPULVEDA REPORTEDLY TOLD NOON PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY THAT A COUP ATTEMPT HAD BEEN FRUSTRATED BY ARREST NIGHT OF JUNE 26 OF UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF PLOTTERS, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN. HE REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS AT THIS TIME, AS INTERROGATIONS STILL UNDER WAY, BUT HE DID INDICATE THAT MILITARY ARRESTEES WERE NOT OF HIGH RANK. SENATE MEETING TONIGHT TO CONSIDER THIS DEVELOPMENT, IN SPECIAL SESSION REQUESTED BY PDC SENATORS WHO WONDER HOW, IF COUP DISCOVERED, ARMY CINC PRATS COULD HAVE OFFERED RESIGNATION YESTERDAY AFTER INCIDENT AND WHY NO MENTION MADE OF COUP PLOT IN DECREE CREATING SANTIAGO EMERGENCY ZONE.

2. BOTH SENATE AND CHAMBER HELD SPECIAL SESSIONS JUNE 27 DEVOTED TO DEFENDING SUPREME COURT FROM UP ATTACKS. PDC CONFIDENTIAL

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LEGISLATORS PRESENTED LIST OF HIGHLY SALARIED UP GOVT OFFICIALS TO REBUT UP CHARGES OF EXCESSIVE REMUNERATIONS OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SANTIAGO 2805). PRESIDENT ALLENDE REJECTED SUPREME COURT' S JUNE 25 PUBLIC LETTER (SANTIAGO 2782) AS " DISRESPECTFUL

AND ABUSIVE." SUBSEQUENT TO SURFACING OF GEN PINOCHET' S LETTER (SANTIAGO 2782), SENATE PRES FREI AND MINDEFENSE TOHA EXCHANGED NASTY PUBLIC LETTERS CONCERNING POTENTIAL SENATE INVESTIGATION OF FINANCIAL SITUATION OF GOVT- APPOINTED INTERVENTORS, INCLUDING THREE MILITARY OFFICERS.

3. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APPROVED IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST INTENDENTES OF TALCA AND NUBLE PROVINCES, SUSPENDING THEM FROM OFFICE. CHAMBER COMMITTEE BEGAN INVESTIGATING IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST MININTERIOR ESPINOZA GROWING OUT OF JUNE 21 RAID ON TV/6. OPPOSITION PDR DEPUTY RAFAEL OTERO PRESENTED BILL WHICH WOULD DECLARE PRES ALLENDE INCOMPETENT TO PERFORM DUTIES OF PRESIDENT, BUT ACTION WAS DISAVOWED BY OTERO' S PARTY.

4. SOME 100 WIVES OF CARABINEROS STAGED PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO AFTERNOON JUNE 27 TO PROTEST INADEQUATE SALARIES AND HIGH COST OF LIVING, NOTING CARABINERO COMMANDER GENERAL SEPULVEDA IS PRESENTLY ON ALL- EXPENSE PAID JUNKET IN EUROPE.

5. REPORTS OF EARLY MORNING DYNAMITE EXPLOSIONS CONTINUE, LATEST IN SANTIAGO YESTERDAY AT ENAMI GOVT- MINING AGENCY OFFICERS AND AT VINA DEL MAR GARAGE. VIOLENCE REPORTED YESTERDAY IN CHILLAN, INCLUDING ATTACK ON PDC RADIO STATION AND LOCAL PATRIA Y LIBERTAD OFFICE.

6. PDC ISSUED STATEMENT TODAY DEPLORING PRATS' INCIDENT AS PRODUCT OF CLIMATE OF HATRED FOMENTED BY UP. STATEMENT AFFIRMED THAT RATIONALE FOR DECLARING SANTIAGO EMERGENCY ZONE, AS SPELLED OUT IN CABINET STATEMENT (REFTEL), IS INSUFFICIENT FOR THIS LIMITING EXERCISE OF THEIR LIBERTIES BY CHILEANS.

7. COMMENT. PRATS PRESUMABLY KNEW ABOUT ARRESTS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY SEPULVEDA, AND KNOWLEDGE THAT A COUP PLOT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED MAY HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN ACTION BY PRATS IN YESTERDAYS' INCIDENT. LATTER IN ANY CASE TERMINATES FOR THE MOMENT ANY POSSIBILITY OF ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATION IN CABINET, ALTHOUGH EVENTUALLY AFTER DECENT INTERVAL THIS POSSIBILITY COULD BE REVIVED.
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